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## SATURDAY PRESS

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Remittances of Honolulu.

In these days, when exchange generally rules pretty high, and is not infrequently high to get, it will be interesting to note the rates that obtained some twenty-four years ago. The transactions for many years were mostly in whalers' drafts, on the owners at home, and sold at from 5 per cent discount to par. I remember that in April, 1859, a considerable amount of exchange, consisting of United States Consular bills and those of whalers, was thrown upon the market, depressing the rates. The former, at fifteen days sight, were disposed of as follows: \$5000 at par (\$2,000 at 1 per cent discount, and \$2,500 at 2 per cent discount). Six thousand on account of a consignment, closed at 1 per cent discount. The business was done by tenders advertised for. In 1854, the rates varied from par to as high as 12 1/2 per cent discount. During the spring season of 1855, whalers' bills for two months only commanded 1 and 2 per cent premium. From that time down to the early part of 1859, they ranged from par to 2 and as high as 12 1/2 per cent discount.

Everybody is aware of the remarkable swimming abilities of the average native Hawaiians, though it may be doubted whether the men of the present generation possess in this particular the "staying" qualities of those that are past. I will here relate a story in this regard which I heard in 1859, at the risk of being considered a teller of "fish stories." Two natives who had shipped on a whaler, bound north, became homesick and repented of their bargain. At night, when the vessel was about thirty miles off Barber's point, watching their opportunity in the darkness, they slipped overboard and struck out for land. After swimming for some twenty hours, they came across one of those huge sharks that are often met with in the vicinity of Barber's point. Apparently having no apprehensions of danger from the monster, they both mounted upon his back, astride, and guiding him as one might an ox, or a horse, on his road, now on one side and then on the other, they pointed him for the land, about ten miles distant. Their strange steed was quite tractable, and seems never to have thought of going below the surface to get rid of his riders. Meantime, being almost famished for want of food, they picked off and devoured the numerous small fish that adhered to the cuticle of sharks, and enjoyed one of those rare feasts so dear to the Kanaka; though minus the poi. Arrived on soundings, and finding that their friend the shark was reluctant to approach any nearer the land, they jumped off and swam to shore, landing near Puuloa. This is the story as I heard it from the two men, after they had been arrested as deserters from their ship; and they were willing to take their oath of its truth. Doubtless they actually swam the distance mentioned, thirty miles, but the shark portion of the story is rather a tough one to swallow.

However, I am reminded in this connection of an ancient native legend which has reference to the ancestors of the present reigning family, and which is probably one of those myths that abound in the old native kaos. On the coast of Kohala there existed in the reef, some distance from land, and probably still there, a number of circular depressions in the reef, which were quite deep, and in which abode the monstrous "ground sharks" for which this coast was noted. One of the ancestors of the family of which I speak, is related to have got the reputation of having some mysterious affinity or relationship with the genus *carcharias*, or shark, from the fact that whenever he went out fishing and got ready to return he heard his custom was to leave his companions in the canoe and ride to land on the back of a shark.

Ever since I can remember the city of Honolulu, it has been remarkable for one thing—the facility with which money can be obtained by subscription for a charitable object. Whoever gets up a properly worded paper, setting forth that Tom, Dick or Harry is in needy circumstances and a worthy object of charity, will, if he can get some one to head it with a fair figure, invariably raise a respectable sum. I do not purpose to discuss the point as to whether such kind of giving is wise charity or not, but simply state the fact that there is probably no other place of its size on earth where so much of this charitable subscription business has been done. But in May, 1859, a novel character appeared on our streets as a solicitor for the contributions of the charitable. And he was eminently successful, for he was no less a person than King Kamehameha IV., and his object was to obtain a fund in aid of the erection of the Queen's Hospital. When the chief magistrate of the country calls upon one in the character of an earnest solicitor for a worthy public charity, especially when he is such a polished gentleman and eloquent talker as was Alexander Liholiho, he is bound to succeed. One must be a veritable curmudgeon who could refuse under such circumstances. Day after day the king was seen, going about town, calling upon everybody. And he made his solicitations with infinite tact, suggesting to each a subscription that was fairly in proportion to the donor's means. The public responded nobly to the royal call, and in a week's time the amount was over \$15,000, the king and queen heading the paper with \$500 each, while individual subscriptions ranged from \$5 to \$100. The house of representatives passed the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the representatives of the people, in the name of their constituents, beg leave respectfully to present to their majesties the king and queen, their united and heartfelt thanks for the personal exertions which their majesties have made, and which have so happily been crowned with success, in raising a fund for the establishment of a hospital for the indigent. Resolved, That by this act of their majesties they have more than ever secured a firm and lasting tie to our affections as well as our loyalty.

A select committee, consisting of Messrs. Sheldon, Robertson, Richardson, Kalama and Kahakaho, were appointed to present a copy of these resolutions to the king. This was done on the 31 of May, when Judge Robertson addressed him as follows:

Sir, we have the honor of approaching your majesty on this occasion as a special committee of the house of representatives, charged with the agreeable duty of presenting to your majesty certain resolutions, adopted by that body, expressive of their high appreciation of your majesty's personal exertions in raising a fund for the establishment of a hospital for the sick, and also of the deep and kindly interest manifested in this enterprise by your majesty's royal consort, whose nobleness of heart and purpose cannot fail to secure for her the lasting gratitude and admiration of the Hawaiian people.

His majesty listened to this address and the resolutions, with evident gratification, and replied, in effect, that he received this demonstration as a new proof of the support which he had always been led to expect from his people through their representatives. The idea of establishing hospitals for the sick had always been a favorite one with her majesty, the queen, and he should take the occasion, near at hand, of the prorogation of parliament, to express his thanks to the public of Honolulu, who had so generously responded to the call for contributions. This he did on the occasion mentioned, in the following words:

I wish to take this first public occasion to express the almost unspeakable gratification with which I have found my efforts successful beyond my hopes. It is due to the subscribers as a body, that I should bear witness to the readiness, not less than the liberality, with which they have met my advances. When you exert to your several places, let the fact be made known, that to Honolulu the sick man has a friend in everybody. Nor do I believe that he who made us all, and to whose keeping I commend in now Honolulu, you, has seen with indifference how the claims of common humanity have drawn together, in the subscription list, names representative of almost every class of our united community.

A corporation was formed without delay under a charter of the "Queen's Hospital," and as soon as the proper site was obtained, work was commenced on the building, which has ever since been an ornament as well as a blessing to the city.

May 4th, B. Toup Nicholas, who had, since the departure of General Miller, been acting British consul general for these islands, sailed for England via Bremen, in the British ship *Pizarro*. Mr. Nicholas had for several months been, unfortunately, subject to fits of insanity, and was rendered quite unfit for the performance of the duties of the office. Mr. E. S. Ruggles, who had been in business here with A. G. Thurston, in a drug store, was employed to accompany Mr. Nicholas as guardian. During the temporary vacancy, Mr. W. L. Green was recognized by the Hawaiian government as acting British consul.

The appropriation bill for 1858-59, voted up the sum of \$609,411.00. The following were some of the items: His majesty's private party, including expenses of royal state and salary, \$2,000; H. R. H. Kamehameha, \$3,000; director of government press, \$2,000; aid to his lordship, \$3,000; president department of public instruction, \$3,500; department of war, support of military, \$10,000; April 1, 1858 to April 30, 1860, \$40,218.21; chief justice, \$5,000 per annum; associates, \$3,500; for public improvements, \$128,730.54. Early in May, the want of any place of public and rational amusement, and the dearth of society, led to the establishment of what was called "Subscription Assemblies," by the young men of the city. These assemblies were simply dancing parties or balls, with supper, and were held at the "Bungalow," at the lower end of Richards street, to which I have previously alluded. Tickets were sold, which admitted a gentleman and accompanying ladies. The committee of arrangements were: Dudley C. Bates, Thomas Spencer, E. P. Adams, Fred L. Hanks and John O. Dominis. Of these, Messrs. Hanks and Bates have been away from the islands for years, one in New York and one in California; the others, Messrs. Spencer, Adams and Dominis are still well known residents.

**LITERARY NOTES.**

Charles Reule will have a humorous sketch called *Roads in the June Harpers*. "Haydn's Dictionary of Dates" has been revised for American readers, and ought to be on the desk of every student.

The New York *Manhattan* is soon to enter the field of illustrated magazines against *Harpers* and the *Century*.

"James Nasmyth, Engineer" is the latest industry biography by Samuel Smiles, who is the greatest biographer of self-made men. The "Daily Tales," which Sherwood Bonner contributed to *Harpers* Weekly, have been gathered into a book, and are well worth rereading.

Mr. Henry James, Jr., will permit himself the impertinence of reviewing the Emerson-Carlyle collection in the *June Century*. Mr. Julian Hawthorne's latest novel "Dust" is attracting a great deal of attention, in both the United States and England. It is historical, and its scene is laid in the mother country.

"Political History of Recent Times" is a work having special reference to Germany, written by Muller, a professor in the university at Tübingen, and an authority on German history, is his author.

Mrs. Little Devereux Blake has replied to the Rev. Morgan Dix's sermon on Woman's Place in Modern Society. The Appleton's print the clergyman's views and the John W. Lovell Co. issue the lady's reply.

Mr. Cross, whose chief title to celebrity lies in the fact that he married the widow of George Henry Lewes, best known as George Eliot, is writing the life of his wife, which will be published in the United States by J. R. Osgood & Co.

George Frederick Parsons, Editor of the *Sacramento Record-Union*, is writing a series of papers, *Theosophy and Occultism in India*. Mr. Parsons is one of the most scholarly men connected with American journalism, and these papers are well worthy the attention of all interested in the abstruse, intricate yet fascinating subjects of which they treat.

Professor Hardy (whoever he may be) has written a novel entitled "But Yet a Woman." An entire edition was ordered by booksellers in advance of publication. The book came out on the 21st ultimo, and Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., its Boston publishers, are now at work on a third edition. The critic, in making the announcement, neglects to give the great unknown's initials.

The New York *Medical Records*, says that Mlle. Bernard, the daughter of Claude Bernard, has been fired at Bonlogne-sur-Seine, on complaint of her neighbors, for converting her courtyard, garden, parlor and bedroom into a kennel for destitute dogs. She felt some reputation was due the canine race for the injuries inflicted on it by her father's vivisections.

The oldest newspaper in the world is published at Pekin. It is printed on a large sheet of silk, and it is said, has made a weekly appearance for upward of a thousand years.

A Oakley Hall has been "consolidated out" from the editorship of the New York *World*, and has taken charge of the editorial department of the *Truth*, of which paper it is rumored that he and his friends have secured control.

An immense deposit of white moss, which is said to possess the requisite qualities for the manufacture of a good grade of paper, has been discovered in Sweden. A large mill is being erected for the purpose of utilizing the discovery.

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